

Message Text

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72

ACTION SCI-06

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7637

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BBAK EIND FI

SUBJ: DMSO-HARMFUL OR BENEFICIAL?

BEGIN SUMMARY. PLEASE INFORM EMBASSY HELSINKI BY CABLE WHETHER DMSO (DIMETHYLSULFOXIDE) HAS BEEN APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED BY U.S. AGENCIES SUCH AS FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION FOR HUMAN USE. THE INFORMATION IS NEEDED FOR A COURT HEARING JULY 16 IN THE HELSINKI COURT OF APPEALS. INQUIRER, PROFESSOR SETALA OF HELSINKI UNIVERSITY, PLANS TO PHONE THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION MONDAY, JULY 15 IF NO CABLE REPLY RECEIVED BY THEN. END SUMMARY

1. BACKGROUND: THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH MRS. SETALA AND A STATEMENT SENT TO THE EMBASSY BY HER HUSBAND, KAI SETALA, PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGY, MEDICAL FACULTY, UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI, 2. IN THE COURSE OF CANCER EXPERIMENTS, PROF. SETALA IDENTIFIED DMSO AS A SUBSTANCE STIMULATING HAIR GROWTH ON RATS. HE AND SOME COLLEAGUES HAVE FINNISH RIGHTS TO SALE AND HAVE LICENSED RIGHTS TO A COSMETIC COMPANY. A RIVAL COSMETIC COMPANY HAS TAKEN LEGAL ACTION TO PREVENT SALE.

3. PROFESSOR SETALA MAINTAINS THAT IN CONVENTIONAL DOSAGES DMSO IS WITHOUT SIDE EFFECTS. THE FINNISH MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY PROHIBITED USE OF
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DMSO, BUT WERE OVERRULED BY THE SUPREME ADMINISTRATIVE

COURT, STATE OF FINLAND, ON 21 JUNE 1973. IT APPEARS,
HOWEVER, THAT THE MATTER IS BEING CONSIDERED AGAIN
AND PROF. SETALA, AS AN INTERESTED PARTY, WISHES TO
KNOW THE POSITION OF THE U.S. HEALTH AUTHORITIES FOR
PRESENTATION TO THE COURT.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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